

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 SAJ-01 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

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----- 036382

P R 011445Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7137

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0227

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, XG, FI

SUBJ: EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE

REF: (A) GENEVA 371 (B) GENEVA 423

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BEGIN SUMMARY: FINNISH COMMUNIST LABOR LEADER SIMO ELOMAA "PLEASANTLY SURPRISED" BY SUCCESS OF LABOR LEADERS MEETING IN GENEVA. HE SAID NORDIC UNIONS ARE UNANIMOUS THAT FUTURE MEETINGS SHOULD NOT USE ILO UMBRELLA AND THAT FINNS WERE READY TO ARRANGE NEXT CONFERENCE IF ASKED. ELOMAA ALSO ECHOED PRIVATE OBSERVATION MADE TO US RECENTLY BY FINNISH TRADE UNION CHAIRMAN NILO HAMALAINEN (SOCIAL DEMOCRAT) THAT SOVIETS PLACE GREAT IMPORTANCE ON EXPANDED CONTACTS WITH AMERICAN LABOR. END SUMMARY.

1. SIMO ELOMAA, COMMUNIST "SECOND" SECRETARY OF FINNISH TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (SAK), TOLD EMBOFFS JANUARY 29 THAT SAK WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED AT HOW WELL TRADE UNION CONFERENCE HAD GONE. ELOMAA DESCRIPTION OF CONFERENCE TALLIED WITH REPORTING IN GENEVA REFTELS AND FROM OTHER POSTS. FINNISH ILO WORKER DELEGATE, SAK SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY KARI TAPIOLA, HAS NOT YET RETURNED FROM GENEVA AND VARIOUS MEETINGS THEREAFTER.

2. IN COMMENTING ON SMOOTHNESS WITH WHICH CONFERENCE TOOK PLACE ELOMAA PUT CREDIT ON CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS AND GROUP MEETINGS WHICH PRECEDED FORMAL DISCUSSION ON JANUARY 19. ELOMAA STATED THAT NORDICS IN THEIR GROUP MEETING PRIOR TO CONFERENCE, WERE UNANIMOUS ON OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED AT GENEVA AS WELL AS ON NATURE OF FOLLOW-ON MEETING. NORDICS AGREE, ACCORDING TO ELOMAA, NOT ONLY ON HAVING NEXT CONFERENCE CONFINE ITSELF TO TECHNICAL MATTERS BUT ALSO ON DESIRABILITY OF SHEDDING ILO "UMBRELLA". GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT HE HAD EXPECTED THIS VIEW TO BE ADOPTED BY CONFERENCE ELOMAA SAID THAT CONTINUED USE OF ILO FRAMEWORK WAS NOT MENTIONED IN CONFERENCE'S GENERAL DISCUSSION UNTIL IT WAS RAISED IN VETTER'S SPEECH AND THAT MATTER WAS LEFT "UNRESOLVED" AFTER SUBSEQUENT DEBATE.

3. RE ATTENDANCE AT MEETING ELOMAA SPECIFICALLY
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STATED THAT ALL THREE FRENCH FEDERATIONS WERE REPRESENTED, AS WELL AS THE THREE FROM ITALY.

4. AS FOR HELSINKI'S CHANCES TO BE THE SITE FOR THE NEXT MEETING (WITH OR WITHOUT THE ILO UMBRELLA) ELOMAA SAID THAT WAS, OF COURSE, A MATTER FOR THE ORGANIZING GROUP TO DECIDE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS. HE REPEATED THE SAK

LINE THAT IT IS NOT PROSELYTISING FOR HELSINKI'S
SELECTION BUT WAS READY TO ORGANIZE THE
MEETING IF ASKED. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER,
THAT
DECISION SHOULD BE MADE SEVERAL MONTHS IN ADVANCE
TO GIVE ADEQUATE TIME FOR PLANNING AND TECHNICAL
ARRANGEMENTS.

5. ASKED WHETHER PRECEDENT OF USG PARTICIPATION
IN CSCE MIGHT FIND ANY PARALLEL IN ROLE FOR US
TRADE UNIONS IN TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS AMONG
EUROPEAN WORKERS, ELOMAA REPLIED THAT -- IN PRINCIPLE --
NON-EUROPEANS SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED. TECHNOLOGICALLY
ADVANCED COUNTRIES HAVE COMMON PROBLEMS. INDEED,
THE SOVIETS ALSO HAVE THEIR EYE ON BROADENED
CONTACT WITH AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT WHICH CONTAINS
"MANY KINDS OF UNIONS"

ELOMAA SAID, AND ARE
ALREADY MAKING BILATERAL EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION.
AS FOR MULTILATERAL COOPERATION ELOMAA OBSERVED
THAT IT HAD BEEN HARD ENOUGH TO GET THE EUROPEANS
TOGETHER -- NOT ONLY MUST ONE CONTEND WITH THE
EAST-WEST SPLIT BUT WITH THE FRACTIONALIZATION
WITHIN WESTERN EUROPE.
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